



Joint Commission International Accreditation and Certification Policies
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General Presurvey Policies

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General Eligibility Requirements for Survey

Any health care organization may apply for JCI accreditation if it meets the following requirements:

- The organization is currently in operation as a health care provider organization in the country and licensed (if required).
- The organization assumes, or is willing to assume, responsibility for improving the quality of its care and services.
- The organization provides services addressed by JCI standards.

The following three eligibility criteria must be met by academic medical center hospitals:

- 1) The applicant hospital is organizationally or administratively integrated with a medical school.
- 2) The applicant hospital is the principal site for the education of both medical students and medical specialty residents from the medical school noted in criterion #1.
- 3) The applicant hospital conducts academic and/or commercial human subject research involving patients of the hospital.

Purpose of Accreditation Surveys

An accreditation survey assesses an organization's compliance with JCI standards and their intent statements. The survey evaluates the organization's compliance based on:

- interview with staff and patients and other verbal information;
- on-site observations of patient care processes by surveyors;
- policies, procedures, clinical practice guidelines, and other documents provided by the organization; and
- results of self-assessments when part of the accreditation process.

The on-site survey process, as well as continued self-assessment, helps the organizations identify and correct problems and improve the quality of care and services. In addition to evaluating compliance with standards, their intent statements and the International Patient Safety Goals, surveyors spend time in providing education in support of the organization's quality improvement activities.

Scope of Accreditation Surveys

The scope of the JCI survey includes all standards-related functions of an applicant organization and all patient care settings. Applicable standards are selected by JCI from this manual based on the scope of services provided by an organization applying for survey.

The on-site survey will consider specific cultural and/or legal factors that may influence or shape decisions regarding the provision of care and/or policies and procedures in an organization.

Outcomes of Accreditation Surveys

The Accreditation Committee of JCI makes accreditation decisions based on the findings of the survey. An organization can receive one of the following two accreditation decisions:

Accredited or Accreditation Denied. These accreditation decisions are based on whether or not the organization meets the decision rules. For a description of the decision rules, please *see* the Survey Process Guide or access the rules on the JCI website.



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Accreditation Awards

To gain accreditation, organizations must demonstrate acceptable compliance with all standards and achieve a minimal numerical score on these standards as identified in the decision rules. Accredited organizations receive an Official Survey Findings Report and award certificate. The report indicates the level of compliance with JCI standards achieved by the organization.

Length of Accreditation Awards

An accreditation award is valid for three years unless revoked by JCI. The award is retroactively effective on the first day after JCI completes the organization's initial or triennial full survey or the, first day after JCI completes a follow-up focused survey, if required subsequent to the initial or triennial full survey. An organization's accreditation is not automatically renewed after three years. Rather, an organization seeking to continue its accreditation must again undergo a full accreditation survey, resolve any follow-up conditions, and again be found to be in satisfactory compliance with the standards and International Patient Safety Goals.